THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

SCOOND DAY OF THE MEETING AT WASH-INGTON.

PROGRESS OF THE METRIC SYSTEM-THE CATSELL MOUNTAIN GROUP-FACTS LEARNED FROM THE TRANSIT OF VENUS-EXTINCT ANIMALS WITH LITTLE BRAINS-APPLICATION OF THE STEELO-SCOPE TO GROMSTRICAL STUDY-A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE PRIBUNE.] Washington, April 21.-Another cool but delightful Spring day has favored this meeting of the Na-Academy, and there are several new faces since yesterday in the audience. Among the mempresent is Gen. John G. Barnard, brother of Prof. Barnard of Columbia College, par nobile fratrum. Gen. Barnard appears to his greatest advantage in the excitement of debate, and Tribune readers will perhaps recall an occasion when he rose into absolute eloguence at a meeting of the American Association, in speaking of the scientific merits of American shipbuilding. Quartermaster-General Meigs was among the members making their first appearance at this session to-day, and to him Prof. Henry, having an engagement elsowhere, resigned the chair. Two medvania members were among the new-comers -Dr. Weir Mitcheil of Philadelphia, and Prof. S. P. Langley of the Allegheny Observatory. The latter needs no introduction to TRIBUNE readers. His researches on the constitution of the solar surface have been so profound and varied that we must suppose that the marky atmosphere of Pittsburgh's neigh borhood rather helps in examining the san, since, as everybody knows, it is best seen through smoky glass. Among the visitors to-day were Major Powell, well known for his explorations of the Colorado canons, and Prof. E. B. Elliott of the Bureau of Statistics, whose vast fund of information on all subjects in which figures accomulate is over at the disposal of his friends and the public.

The Academy elects only five new members each year. These much-coveted honors were to-day beis a plateau of an average elevation of very nearly 2,000 feet, not meluding the hight of the monutains above that level, with an almost precipitous descent, independent of that of the monutains proper. When he first went into this region, ascorbaining the hight of frees mountains as a little short of 4,000 feet, Fref. Cuyot imagined that he had made a grand discovery, as he had found to mention made of them. To the south all was a whiterness, with no villages or tooks. What struck him was the common direction of the mountain-chain; he found no unbeauch stowed on Prof. Robert E. Rogers of Philadelphia, who has made his reputation in chemical researches; Prof. Asaph Hall of the United States Naval Observatory, who has done noted work in astronomy; Prof. Alpheus Hyatt, widely known as a naturalist, and at present Curator of the Natural History Society of Boston; Prof. Joseph Le Conte, geologist of the University of California and cousin of Dr. John L. Le Conte, the entomologist of Philadelphia; and as evidently all of these valleys were scooped out by the rivers.

A contrision had occurred in naming "Round Top" and "High Peak," as the position from which the latter was viewed made it appear the higher, when it fact it was about 200 foot lower than Round Ton. The Professor had measured the whole system of hights two or three times—in 1862, 1864, in 1870, and 1871—an could wouch for the accuracy of the measurements, as they had been made with earn, with a view to testing the barometric measures. The mountains are difficult of access because from time to time there were vertical strata rising up, causing a series of steps, which give a change for the beautiful cascades for which the Catasilis are celebrated. Black Head was 3,965 feet high, and therefore 1,300 feet lither than High Peak. Again on the southern side is another chain of peaks cut by one or two cloves, and, as in the more northern strong, the lighest of these is not in tront but back of it. The mountains varied from 2,680 to 4,652 feet in hight, gradually increasing from cust to west. Still further south was the great Side Mountain, which is the maximum of the whole system, being 4.179 feet high. finally, Mr. Lewis H. Morgan of Rochester, who has made his mark in the world of science by investigating the traditions, customs, and languages of North American Indians.

The meeting was principally occupied with the reading of papers, and the only noteworthy approach spontaneous remarks were those of Prof. Lesley at the conclusion of Prof. Guyot's essay on the rela tions of the Catskill group of mountains. The differing opinions of astronomers might have provoked discussion on matters connected with observing the transit of Venus, but Prof. Davidson was not present at the reading of his paper on the subject, and nobody cared to enter the lists of argument with Prof. Newcomb. A similar fact prevented debate on Justice Bradley's scheme for reforming the Gregorian calendar, the paper being read in his absence by the Secretary. Had Prof. Cope been present we might have hoped for a battle of bones between him and Prof. Marsh, and possibly an episode that would have served for a supplement to the meeting on the Stanislans. But everything was decorous and slightly dall. Below will be found abstracts of the papers

METRIC REFORM.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS, MEAS-ORES, AND COINAGE BY PROF. P. A. P. BARNARD, PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE, NEW-YORK.

The original object of the Committee on Weights and Measures was to collect information and re port upon all metrological subjects, not only in this country but throughout the world. The system of weights and measures in this country, though nover established by law, is in many respects faulty and capable of great provement without interfering with the faudamental is of quantity in popular use; and many would be with those units by the substitution of new ones, on th ground that the present system is our own. But this ground is fallacious, as no part of that system is our own except the demendations of our columpe. Our measures of length, weight, surface, and capacity were imported the mother country. Until the year 1832 they extend the mother country. Until the year 1832 they extend with no other sanction than that of general usage. that with no ether sanction than that of general usage, at that time the Secretary of the Treasury transmitted a sport to Congress prepared by Mr. F. R. Hassler, then later of the Coast Survey, in which he communicated the information that he had taken the necessary ters to correct the irregularities in this particular, and tated that he had given the necessary orders to that end have constructed standards of length, capacity, and resight, to be furnished to all the custom-houses. Congress took no direct action upon this report, but tacilly peroved it by passing a joint resolution in 1856, directing that copies of the Treasury standards should be turnished to the authorities of the various States. But the

gross took no direct action apon this report, but tacily approved it by passing a Joint resolution in 1826, directing that copies of the Treasury standards should be furnished to the authorities of the various States. But the opportunity which then offered of so reforming our metrological system as to bring it into harmony with a naiversal system was allowed to pass undisproved. The difficulties now to be met in accon—lishing that end are infinitely greater than ever existed. The mistake of nonaction at that time was largely owing to a single public decument transmitted to Congress in 1820 by the Hou. Join Quincy Adams, then Searctary of State, in which, after a thorough and powerful analysis of the sudject and the advantages to be derived from a reform in our metrology, the impression was conveyed that such a reform was practically hopeless.

In the system subsequently adopted by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Winchester bushel, which had previously been the legal standard in England, was found to have the very appreciable error of 1½ cuble inches; and at that very time England had abodehed it as a legal measure and adopted in its stead the imperial bushel, which helds nearly 60 cuble inches more. Our standard gallon is neither the Winchester gallon nor the imperial gallon is neither the Winchester gallon nor the imperial gallon is neither the Winchester gallon nor the imperial gallon in doubt welcome a reform in these matters by comforming the existing measures to those of England; but there are others who desire to see our calife system 8800 to the resisting measures to those of England; but there are others who desire to see our calife system 8800 to more of accr in harmony with the world. An organized society has been formed devoted to measures to the promotion of leading men engaged in commerce in our principal cities in efforts looking toward legislative action. A spontificous movement also is going on moning mon engaged in the scientific professions, prominent in which are the architects, who have m

weights and measures of the metric system. Such efforts will tend to educate the people into the merits of a better system.

In those countries where the metric system has been adopted, the most lively interest is manifested in its continuance and extension into universal use. Early in 1870 an invitation was extended by the French Government, at the instance of the European Gooleste Association, to all friendly nations to collected with it in an endeavor, through an international commission, to perpetuate the basic units of the metric system, by providing standards and copies of the same for the use of the cooperating nations. In response to this invitation, a meeting of delegates from various makins was held in Paris in the Summer of 1870, Profs. Joseph Henry and J. E. Hilgard being the delegates from the United States. At this meeting, at which Prof. Henry only appeared for this Government, certain general principles were agreed upon for future guidance, but in consequence of the war between France and Germany, no active measures were altempted. After the war a second meeting look places in 1870, at which thirty different nations were represented. Prof. Hilgard appearing for the United States, and at which definite action was taken as to the method of construction of the new standards and the mode of their adjustment and verification.

It was decided to make the new standards—the meter and kilogram—of an alloy of platium and tridium, the amount of iridium being ten per cent, and that they should be thue meters, the standard of length being the distance between two delicately traced lines on the surface of the metal, these lines to be observed microscopically, and never touched during the comparisons. Tais alloy resists acids and all ordinary degrees of hoat. In order to obtain the greatest regulity it was determined to give to the bar a cross section resembling a combination of the letters X and it, the lines denoting the limits of the standard measure to be traced on the surface at the bottom of the route.

cach point of an object must be diffused over a certain circle or other figure on the retima, and in the case of light enamating from points on the edge of the bright surface, these circles must extend out beyond the geometrical edge of the image, and thus form an image larger than that due to the size of the object itself. With a telescope this kind of irradiation may be much disantished, but the secondary spectrum and other imperfections of the object glass now come in, and with distant objects the effect of atmospherie softening is superadded, and there is diffraction obtained by diminishing the emergent pencil of rays.

Prof. Newcomb gave reasons for concluding that the hight band of smallight between the times of the sun and planet ought to be treated in theory as if it were an inemergent penetr of ravs.

Prof. Newcomb gave reasons for concluding that the bright band of smilight between the limbs of the sun and planet ought to be treated in theory as if it were an inite assemblage of fixed stars. He then described the results obtained in observing an artificial transit of a venue used for training purposes at Washington in 1873. In case of considerable atmospheric undulation, ucither the bar a dark, cloud-like line parallel to the limbs of the sun and planet, which split the band of light in two at its narrowest portion. This line or cloud was unsteady and wavering, disappearing and reappearing, growing thick and thin and changing its form in faminatic ways. About hair a minute before internal connect there was turne of light and darkness. At length this mixture of light and darkness. At length this mixture seemed to congest across its central portion. This moment of congestation was the moment of contact. But at the very best there was a probable error of three seemed to congestation was the moment of contact. The geometrical tonching of the limbs without reference to discontinuity of the thread of light was so uncertain in observation as to be attenly untrustworthy. Equally uncertain was observation on the first appearance of the intervening line or ligament. Under untavorable atmospheric conditions semintime of the sort might be moted half a minute before actual contact. One of the most unexpected results was that the first external could be as external contact was found more difficult of observation. The first papears of the internal contacts, but the first external conditions were an follows: [1, 7] The only phase of internal contact which it is worth while to observe; is that of true contact. When he definition is sharp and steady, this phase is marked by the breaking or formation of the thread of light; and two the constitution of the profit of limbs, depend on the definition, the first being earlier, and the latter later, the worse the definition.

bar of the H.

For the purposes of uniformity, it was resolved to construct the whole from a single march formed at one operation of melting. The duty of preparing the bars according to these rules was confided to the French section of the commission, as also the subsequent duty of comparison and verification. These verifications having been completed, the Committee were required to call the entire commission together and deliver the standards thus completed. It was also proposed to singgest to the governments represented the establishment of a permanent institution to be called the international bureau of standard weights and measures, having its scat at Paris, to be charged with the care of all the delicate apparatus which had been employed in the construction of the standards, and to make future comparisons and vertications, it was decided secondarily to call a conference of the nations to pricet a plan for such an organization and the means of maintaining it; and an invitation by the French Government was issued in January, 1873. After some delay, occasioned by necessary diplomatic correspondence, our Minister in Faris, Mr. Washburne, was authorized to represent this Government in such a conference, and a listle more than a month ago the conference was convended to the formed that the establishment of such a bureau has seen accertained upon, the proposition having received the assent of France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Beigiam and Bwitzerland, our own representative concurring so far as of the H.

r the purposes of uniformity, it was resolved to cont the whole from a single innot tormed at one over-

That the same care and attention should be devoted to he was empowered to do. The cost to this country as its share, for the maintenance of such an establishment, will share, for the maintenance of such an establishment, win be only about \$8 N per annum. The Committee conclude their report what the following resolutions: Emakers, That to the equinon of the National Academy of Sciences an international horson of weights and measures as an instrumentality practically indiscensable for the complete and satisfactor, second planners of the miseriant objects to which the Futernational Commission of 1870 and hard contends, via. The representation unaltered forever of the

of the expense accounting to one about a copy of these resolutions, authenticated by Resolved. That a copy of these resolutions, authenticated by the signatures of the proper officers of the Academy, he forwarded by the President of the United States.

THE CATSEILLS.

OROGRAPHY OF THE CATSKILL GROUP OF MOUN-

LEGE OF NEW-JERSEY, PRINCETON.

TAINS-BY PROF, ARNOLD GUYOT OF THE COL-

The Professor began by referring to the fact

that the Catskill Mountains were a great resort on ac-count of their elevation and their proximity to the City

of New-York. Still it was a fact worth remarking that there were no right names for the different mountains.

nius he proceeded to give a description of them, and

claimed that they were a part of the great Appalachtan

chain extending through Pennsylvania and New-Jersey,

as shown by their general direction and the whole topog

raply of the region. The Catskills proper are situated on

the hights of Lable-land between two little rivers and

Siver on the one side and Esopus Creek on the other. It

is a plateau of an average elevation of very nearly 2,005

DEBATE ON PROP. GUYOT'S PAPER.

Prof. Lesley followed with some complimentary re

marks upon Prof. Guyot's treatment of the subject. He

was surprised that the Professor had discovered any ele-

minations of these hights; he would ask, however,

Prof. Guyot explained that the Appalachian chain

whole mass.

Prof. Lesley then gave a very interesting explanation of the connection of the Catskill group with the Appalachian range, showing by the blackboard the singularity this

anticitual curves which determined beyond a doubt this

ON THE OBSERVATION OF CONTACTS DURING TRAN-

SERVATORY AT WASHINGTON.

are intions of it, observers are ma

SITS OF MELCURY OR VENUS-BY PROF. SIMON NEWCOMB OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL OB-

The phenomenon known as the black drop

interfered with the earlier efforts of observers to fix ac-

their internal contacts in passing over the sun's disk.

This was almost universally the case in the transits of

Venus in 1761 and 1769. In subsequent transits it has censed to be of so much importance, and many observers

ble to ascertain its causes and its constant elements,

since its recurrence is always possible. Reviewing the de-

of sunlight between the planet and the san was still of

to form across this scace, thus counceling the limb of the

planet with that of the sun. At ingress, the same thing

took place in a reverse order, the ligament seeming to be

Le Verrier at Marsellles.....

surately the moment when the inferior planets made

two large valleys, one on each side, the

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT TRANSIT. CONCLUMENT FROM OBSERVING THE TRANSFF OF VENUS'AT NAGAFAKI, JAPAN-BY PROP. GEORGE DAVIDSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COAST SUR-VEY, SAN FRANCISCO.

This paper was in the form of a letter addressed to the Secretary. It set forth views already in-dicated by Prof. Davidson and gave the details of his experiments with artificial arrangements representing the transit of Venus. These were observed regularly by the transit of Venus. These were observed regularly by his party for a considerable period before the day of transit. The appearances of the transit lised did not essentially diffor from those observed with the artificial contrivances. He attributes all the disturbances noted to atmospheric perturbations and recognizes in them nothing which he has not previously noted in his surveying work and in astronomical observations. No Heament, such as was seen by observats in 1761 and 1769, was perceived during this transit. At the third contact the cusps were sharely defined. He concinctes that all the phenomena of black drop, band or ligament, of Balley's beads between sharely defined. He concludes that he shall have described the limbs of the son and moon at totality are due wholly and solely to the undeadiness of the alreaphers at the time and place of obscuration; and it appears not impossible that the phenomenon which he had twice obscrede and reported of Antares being promoted upon the body of the moon (bright limb) for 2½ seconds after appeared contact may be due to the same cause. And, therefore, the cardision appeared to him true stable that to get the best results in astronomical observations we must make them from great acd isolated elevations, where the admissible distributions are all solated elevations, where the admissible distributions are the nature of the start of the proposed of the start of the

COMPASSION OF THE SIZE OF THE BRAIN IN EX-TINGI MAMMAIS WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THOSE OF THE PERSENT DAY-BY PROF. O. C.

MARSH OF YALE COLLEGE, NEW-HAVEN. Prof. Marsh said that in investigating the tossil manusalla from the tertiary of the Rocky Mountain region he had had occasion to compare the size of the orain of mamma's of the same group from different formations and also those of one formation with another. Commencing with the cocate, the lowest part of the tertrary, he had found that the mammals all had small mary, he had found that the mammals all had small brains. Comparing these with the brain especity of the fossil organization of the miorens, placens, and also the post-phosens one, there was a regular increase in size event in animals of the same bulk. Provide convarison of a large number of specimens very interesting results had also been developed in regard to the changes which the brain itself had undergous. He number of convolu-tions had increased and the homisphores had grown more than the exceledium.

A PROJECT FOR CHANGING THE CIVIL YEAR-BY MR.

A bill to reform the Gregorian year was intreduced into the last Congress by Mr. Ellis H. Roberts. It began with several preludes, such as these:

Prof. Gnyot explained that the Aspenicibles chain bivides near this point, and one portion results in a clided condition of mountains which comes as far as the imits of New-York, but the middle chains are not conjuced, but are merged into the plateau widelies from the membrain on the west. He existing the method of formation of this form of mountains, stating that these chains have no axis of electate mass.

salarice and vermal equinox about 80 days and I hour; thence to the Summer solatice, 93 days less 38 hours, theree to the Antunnal e ulnox, 94 days 14% hours, and thence to the winter & ice, 90 days less 51 hours. For practical purposes, he would make the 583 three months exactly 90 days; the next three, 93; and the last three 80 days in cammon years and 90 days in leap years. This will being the sun's arrival at the eardinal points cenerally on the first days of January, April, July and O tober respectively. Every month can have clider 30 or 31 days except Dozember, which has 29 in the centum years and 30 days in lwap year. No attention of the calendar would be required as to leap years; the Gregorian arrangement is accurate enough to last for many extantia. All that is necessary is to advance the first of January to present 21st of Docember, which is exactly the same climac, that was made in adorting the Gregorian calendar and conduct the number of days in the respective months; for January, February, and March 30 days, and each month between April and September inclusive, 31 days, and October and November each 30 days, and December 29 days in the common years and 30 days of the leap years. He goes ento since the advantages of such an arrangement, He common years and 30 days of the leap years. He goes ento since the advantages of such an arrangement. He says it will have a leasn of truth and reason, whereas the present arrangement has neither teath, reason, nor convenience to recommend it. No appetogy is needed at the present day for accion; to adjust the year to its natural relations and the demands of sientific truth and practical convenience. Judge Bradley has drawn up a bill to reform the civil year, by which he shows that the changes to be made would preduce no great inconvenience, and would for tire year; little legislation. There are only three sections to his bill, and it seems to be practicable so far as its general provisions are concerned.

DISCUS ION ON JUDGE BRADLI Y'S PAPER.
Prof. Hilgard remarked that it had doubtless been the dea of many men that the present arrangement of the calendar was not such as we would have made if we had calendar was not such as we would have made to shad the shaping of it; and it might be considered whether the slight inconvenience suffered at any overtime would not be worth undergoing in order to put this matter in a better form. In the discussion to which he had referred the courlasion was reached that it would be most desirable to begin the year on the 21st of December, as proposed in the paper of Mr. Justices Bradley, and preserve the Gregorian moule of intercalation, placing the intercalary day the last day of the year. The division of months that appeared to be most approved was an alternate arrangement of 30 and 31 days, which was proposed by Mr. Elliott, except the last month, which would have 31 days in leap year and 30 days in other years. This arrangement would make the beginnings of the quarters of the year coincide very nearly with the cardinal points of the carth's orbit. Mr. Justices Bradley, in conversation, had thought it well that the matter should be mosted, and an endeavor made to ascertain whether, by the close of the present or the succeeding entury, public opinion would not simpe itself toward the adoption of a new mode.

Gen. Meigs remarked that it certainly seemed, the most matural arrangement, but, like the adoption of the French meter, he feared it would take a revolution in politics to bring it about. had the shaping of it; and it might be considered

THE STEREOSCOPE APPLIED TO GEOMETRY.

BY JAMES D. WARNIE OF BROOKLYN. Mr. Warner began by saying that it has been remarked that the business of life was to shorten the matter of calculation. His object was to bring the stuly of the higher mathematics within the comprehension of the masses. Mathematical text-books of the higher order had not been wuch improved in their methods within the past 25 years; and if mathematicians would devote themselves to improvements in this regard, a much better read from the known to the unknown would be secured, and the young student would be enabled to grasp the problems of the higher mathematics while yet he had beads and trength to bring to the task. In considering this matter be had devised a method of linear notation for the representation of angles in coordinate geometry, which mathod consists of a series of short lines or dashes, the first angle being represented by one dash, the second by a dash and dot, the third by a dash bounded at each extremity by another shorter dash and so on. In studying the structure of the steroscope, he found that by covering the structure of the steroscope, and the structure of the castroid effect could be produced. He exhibited a pair of glasses treated in this manner and also a number of geometrical figures drawn upon cards, and claimed that the steroscopic effect was thereby produced. W. C. W. the past 25 years; and if mathematicians would de

CENTENNIAL OF RHODE ISLAND ARTILLERY. PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 22 .- The United Train of Artillery is to-day celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of its organization by a parade and an oration delivered by Col. II. Van Siyek in Music Hall. The exercises will close with a military and civic ball the LOOAL MISCELLANY.

ALDERMANIC RECOMMENDATIONS. THE LEGISLATURE ASKED TO DEVEAT BILLS ALLEGED TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CONTROLLER.

THE MAYOR SUGGESTS THAT LEGISLATION BE REQUESTED IN RELATION TO RAPID TRANSIT-SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO NEW OFFICES FOR THE COMPORATION COUNSEL. The Board of Aldermen yesterday, by a vote

of 14 to 5, adopted a resolution offered by Alderman Purroy, professing against the passage of the bills new before the Legislature increasing the powers of the Controller, and presumably offered in his interest. The billis are alleged to affect injuriously the interests of the city. It was carried by a party vote, all the Democrats voting in the allegative and the Republi-Refronds presented a roport requiring the Hudson River Railroad Company to construct a s bridge over the tracks of that railroad One-hun-ired-and-dity-second-st., which was adopted. The Controller was instructed to transmit to the Board, without any farther dolsy, the information called for on March 25, 1875, in relation to the automat of money expended in the repair and maintenance of the public roads and avenues of this city, from April, 1870, to January, 1874, and all the information in his possussion or control as to the amount of money expended in the erection of a market on the East Eighteenth-at. It was resolved, on motion of Alderman Parroy, that the building at Kingsbridge-road and Cola, recently ordered to be leased for the use of the Sixth District Police and Teath District Civil Courts, be designated as the place for holding such courts.

A communication was received from the Mayor, calling Legislature had not yet passed an act to provide better that the Legislature would soon adjourn, and he recom-

ing, can be had for the sum of \$2,700 additional, making the rent in all \$5,000 per anaum.

No better, cheaper, or in are convenient location for the offices of the Corns to the Corporation, as voir tormitic know from examination, can be seened anywhere in the vicinity of the City Full Park than the apartments referred to in Tae Telbune But diag.

The Committee offered a resolution recommending that the Controller be directed to lease the rooms in The Tribune But disk that the Controller be directed to lease the rooms in The Tribune But directed to the second that the controller is the controller than the controller that the controller is the controller of the controller than the controller of the controller than the controller of the controller of the controller than the controller of the controller than the controller of the c

THE SEAMEN'S RETREAT EMBARRASSED.

Considerable anxiety is manifested by the trustees of the Seam n's Ratreat as to the fate of a bill now before the Legislature providing for the sale of a ortion of their property on Staten Island, to provide them with means to carry on the institution. The history of the institution and the causes which have led to its present thannial embarrassment are as follows: One of the earliest Legislatures of this State passed an act requiring a tex of \$1 to be levied upon every seaman arriving at this port, and \$1 50 upon the officers and captains of vessels. The money so realized was credited to an account called the Marine Find, and was to be applied lowerd paying the expenses of sick seamen in the different hospitals. In the earlier years of the law's operation inadequate hospital privi cas were afforded the soumen, except in the three months when quarantino regulations were in operation and the necessity for providing a hospital which should be set apart especially for the sailors' use became more and more apparent. In the year 1830, the Legis and more apparent. In the year 1839, the Legislature passed an act of incorporation providing such a place, and 12 persons were named as incorporators, one half of whom were shipmaners, while the rayor, II sath Officer, and Presidents of the Scannar's Savines Bank and of the Marine Society were also trustens co-officis. The sum of \$19,000 was transferred to this Commission from the Marine Fund, and they were permitted to be the recipients of all the money derived from the head-tax thereafter. With the \$10,000 they purchased 35 acres of land at Staniston, Staten island, and, from the proceeds of the head-money, in process of time, they creeted large and commodious hospitals and supplied them with all the appliances necessary to secure the confort of sick and commodious hospitals and supplied them with all the apoliances necessary to secure the confort of sick and disabled s-amen. The institution fluorished and there remained in the treasury in the year 1803, \$18,000. In that year the Legislature passed an act providing for the erection of the Mariner's Funnily Asylum and theorems to company consisting of ladies to look after the interests of the widows and orphans of s-amen. The unexpended balance in the hands of the trustees of the Seamen's Retreat was transferred to the new institution for the purpose of creeting the Asylum, and soon afterward it was enacted that 10 per cent of the sums received annually from the sallors should be applied towar lits mathicinance. Talsimade a pere pittel of deand soon afterward it was enacted that 10 per cont of the sums received annually from the satiors should be applied toward its maintenance. This made a perceptible difference in the amount available for the Seamen's Retreat but no scrious embarrassment occurred until the year 1861, when some of the ship-owners, who had collected the head money from the seamen, refused to do so any longer, and carried the case into one of the State Courts, which suscain d their refusal. The matter was not appealed, and therefore the revenue from the source referred to fell off, although the greater number of shippers and sallors have continued up to the procent fine to pay voluntarily the contribution to be used for the benefit of the institution.

and satiors have continued up to the present time to pay voluntarily the contribution to be used for the benefit of the institution.

The decrease of commerce during the war still further embarrassed the trustees of the Retreat, and they soon found themselves in arrears, and were compelled to obtain permission from the Legislature to borrow \$50,000 on their property, which, by the advance in real estate, had become worth \$250,000. Of the sun borrowed \$45,000 mas been expended in repairing their buildings and in paying current expenses, tast year the institution was again self-supporting, but large deficiencies have occurred every month tab year, in one month amounting to \$1,100. The trustees say that they have more hard than they need, and have asked from the Legislature permission to self about 25 acres which they believe would bring \$150,000. This they state would place them on a sound basis, and after paying off the mortgage would leave \$115,000 in the trustery including the sun now on hand. They claim that in addition to the causes of embarrassment already mentioned, the fact that the seamen in the United States service are not sent to their hospital increases their burdens. Most of them were sent formerly to that institution, but now for reasons which the trustees claim to be ignorant of they are sent to the City Hospital or to the Brooklyn or Long Island College Hospital. The trustees state that the \$110,000 paid by them to the Mariner's Family Asylum is an improper diversion of the voluntary contributions of the sallors, who contemplated no such disposition of their money, and that if the payment of 10 per cent of the recept is continued in resource of the property. If the logistation sought for shall fall, the trustees propose asking contributions from the merchants of the city.

ARREST OF A SUSPECTED INCENDIARY. Detective Sully arrested Henry F. Goodwin of No. 210 East One-hundred-and-fifta-st. on a charge of arson. Some time ago Goodwin was in Pittaburgh, Ponn., and a store and dwelling were burnt which evi-

dentify had been set on fire by inconflavies. The Pitts plete prostruction, both physically and mentally. Severed burgh police suspected Goodwin, but could not then lay their hands upon the evidence that would justify them in arresting him. Meanwhile they watched his movements and be was followed everywhere he went. Goodwin suspected the caplanage and quietly slipped out of the State. He went West, it was at first supposed, and the officers searched for him in the direction. This week the Chief of Police of Pittsburga learned that Goodwin the Chief of Police of Pittsburgh learned that Goodwin was in this city. He telegraphed to Saparintendant Walling that he wanted Goodwin on a charge of aroson and Directive Sully was put on the case. The Govern Post-Office was watched closely, and restorting a man answering Goodwin's description called for a letter directed to Henry Griffin. Upon being arrested the man velocities of the directed to deed his identity with Goodwin, but when taken to the Police Central Office he broke down and concessed that he was the person wanted. The prisoner was looked up to await the orders of the Pittsburgh authorities.

SUICIDE AT THE WINDSOR HOTEL. HL HEALTH AND BUSINESS TROUBLES INFLUENCE

CHARLES C. LEWIS TO MAKE HIS LIFE. Charles C. Lewis, formerly of the firm Webster, Lowis & Go., refiners and smelters at No. 151 Janest., committed suicide yesterday merning by shooting himself through the head. About 8 o'clock Anne Really and Maggie Standley, two of the chambermaids at the Windsor Hotel, heard a sharp noise, similar to the popping of a cork from a bottle, proceeding from room No. 242 on the second floor of the hotel, and, fearing something wrong, immediately sent for Officer Robert P. chelleid, who proceeded to the room, but could obtain no answer to his summons. The officer then obtained the services of Dr. Gilchrest and the cargenter of the hotel; the door was forced open and Mr. Lewis was found par tially dressed lying on the best still alive, but capilly singing. The fatal builet had possed entirely through the head, becerating the brain. The pistol was clutched rightly in the dying man's right hand. Lowis lived only short time afterward. Coroner Eickhoff was sum-need to take charge of the case. The friends of the ead man, after the temporary inquest, took charge of

dead man, after the temporary inquest, took charge of the remeios.

Mr. Lowis had been in unsound health for over a year past, and when the firm of Webster, Lowis & Ca. foiled, about four months ago, he was ordered by his physician to go South for the benefit of his health. With his wife and daughter he took up his residence in Alico, S.C., where his family are residing now. He came to New-York on April 19, and registered at the Wadboy Hotel. From payers found do his person it was near-ained that he and become mentally depressed by his majortunes and it health, and a memorandum stating that he "had bought a piatel which might be the end of him," tudiented that he strombies had affected his mind. Another in morantum showed that he had sent \$175 to his wife, not had had frombie to raise the monoy. Mr. Lowis was about 50 years of age, this wife and disugher were telegraphed for vesterday, and are expected to arrive in time to attend the funeral services.

WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENTS.

THE LUGISLATURE ASKED TO INSURE A SPEEDY COMPLETION OF UP-TOWN PUBLIC WORKS-AR-GUMENIS OFFERED BY THE WEST SIDE ASSO-

The West Side Association has presented to the Legislature a memorial, signed by the President, William T. Blodgett, and the Executive Committee, consisting of Marshall O. Roberts, H. B. Chaffin, William B. Ogten, Dinlet P. Tiemann and other prominent property-owners. The memorial sets for h that, by the laws of 1867 and the confirmation of the Commissioners of Ea imate and Assessment, on Aug. 8, 1872, the Rivers deave, became one of the avenues of the city of Naw-York and the Riverside Park one of its parks. Up to Jan. 1, 1875, the city of Naw-York had paid assessments amounting to \$3,069,481 for this property, and the property-owners benefited had pa d \$3,104,470. But in this period of two years and four months the amount spent in making the property, acquired at such cost to the city at large and to adjoining property-owners, available for public uses, has been only \$207,835

The increase in valuations, as shown by Park Commissioner Mart n's recent report, is quoted, showing that the average rate of increase in the valuations south of For-tisth-st., since 1839, has been 44 per cent, and north of the same line 14 per cent; and that in the year 1874 the valuations of the up-town wards were 2812 per cent of the whole tarable property in the city. It is claimed by the memorialists that while the owners of property in the

thordies. It is urged that the work of improving the west side should not ocase mow that the owners of the property have been assessed large sums to pay for these very improvements. The memorialists say that they have seen with terret a yearly exodus from this city to New-Jersey and Brooklyn, caus of in a great measure by the inadequacy of accommodations in pleasant borables at reasonable rates for the population of New-York. In view of these facts, the West Side Association ask the Legislature to afford such aid and encouragement as shall insure the speedy completion of these important public works.

PLANS FOR RAILROAD ADVANCEMENT. MBARRASSMENTS OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC AND MACON AND BRUNSWICK RAILROADS-PROPOSED

EXTENSION OF A WESTERN ROAD.

A meeting of the directors of the Northern 'acific Ratiroad Company was held yesterday morning the offices of the Company at Ninth-st, and Fifth-ave. George W. Casa, recently appointed receiver of the road by the United States Circuit Court, tendered his resignaion as President. Since April 17, the date of his anpointment as receiver, he has performed no official act a President. In the afternoon the Committee appointed to look after the interests of the bondholders, to devise plans for obtaining flusocial relief, and, if practicable, to pians for obtaining financial relief, and, if practicable, to resume the construction of the road, held a session at the Company's office. This Committee consists of Johnston Livingston of New-York, John N. Hutchinson of Phitacleipida, John N. Demisson of Buttimere. United States Scussor villiam Windom, William McKuight of Pittsburgh, Gen. George Stark of New-Humpshire, and ex-Gov. Co-urn of Maine. Ex-Gov. Cobern was absent. An organization was effected and the members of the Committee discussed the situation with the officers and directors of the Company. No daffaite line of action is yet decided upon. There will be another unceting to-day. The bondholders of the Macon and Brunswick Railroad met yester-iny at No. 68 William-st., and appointed a committee to buy in the road at a forthooming sale if necessary, and to operate it or make such arrangement as they deemed destrable.

deemed desirable.

An important meeting of the directors of the St. Louis, An amount and Northern R direct Company was held yesterday to consider a proposition of closer affiance by cease or consoil tation, which will probably soon be consummated. Tals road extends from St. Louis to Kanass City, and is an important link in the chain of roads from St. Louis to San Francisco.

CHARGES AGAINST POLICE CAPTAIN WILLIAMS. President Matsell occupied the bench in the rial-room of the Police Central Office yesterday. Capt. Alexander S. Williams of the Fourth Presinct Police was arraigned on charges preferred by Thomas Wild, keeper of a liquor-saloon at No. 94 New-Chambers-st. Williams entered his place on April 6, and used abusive language. threatening "to break up the crib." Capt. Williams testilied that Wild kept a place that was well known to the police as a resort of thieves and disreputable persons. On April 6 there had been a fight in Wild's saloon between two salors, in which one of them had his lower lip bitten off. The man who did the biting could not be found. The Captain had been informed that this mass was concealed in Wild's place, and that Wild was intending to send him to sea at the first opportunity. Wild refused to tell where the man was concealed, and Capt Williams then told Wild that disturbances were becoming altogether too frequent in his place of late, and that unless they were stopped he should break up his "crib." Capt. Williams then produced a flat of a dozen State Prison convicts who have frequented Wild's salcon. Wild admitted that he knew most of the convicts named in the list. Almong them were, Dennis Brady, the masked burglar; "Abe" Cookley, Barney Dokin, "Bounce" O'Brien, and James Brady ailas "Locko," a a notorious river thief. The case was referred to the Board of Police Commissioners. found. The Captain had been informed that this man

SINGULARLY PROTRAGTED SOMNOLENCE Miss Margaret Roberts, the young woman who reispeed into a strangely soundent state about four months ago at her home at No. 265 Adamest., Brooklyn, still continues in a partially unconscious condition. It will be remembered that Miss Roborts, who lived with mother, was a public school teacher, who also taught a Sunday-school class, and was a very notive church member. Through a supposed excess of mental and physical fatigue she became sleepless and in a constant state of unrest, which finally resulted to her constant

physicians of different schools failed to give her relief.
On Christmas Day, while one of her attendants, who pre-fessed to have measured power, was endeavering to exert this power upon her, she fell into a scuper which he de-clared to be a "measured sloop," and from which she has never yet fully awakened. She now sits on a part of the time, however, endeaves briefly at intervals, and has waked up and down scars a few times. He is indimina-tion that it is a ceasary that all should keep perfect attents a still offer accuracy. physicians of different schools failed to give her relief. tion that it is a cossery that all should be stience to still often apparent, but it is believed will ultimately recover her physical and mental heat

A STEAMBOAT SUNK AT THE WHARF. THE STONING FON PILLS AND CAREENS WHILE UNDER GOING BEPAIR -- LOSS \$20,000.

The steamboat Stonington of the Sound line dergoing repairs and receiving a thorough overlanding of wood work and machinery at the feet of Ninth et., Past River, for the past two weeks. New furniture, which has been purchased for the vessel throughout, was stored in the cabins. The outside planking of the steamer had line, and it was determined to give the vessel a new sheathing. About forty machinists and carpenters were at work upon her yesterday morning, when the swell

CARL SCHURZS POLITICAL SERVICES.

HIS ANSWER TO AN INVITATION TO DELIVER AN AD-DRESS ON FEDRUAL AND STATE RIGHTS.

A letter signed by residents of this city was sent to ex-Senator Carl Schurz on March 31, in which after expressing their admiration of his course on the great political measures before the cenate during his tarm of office, they requested him to deliver an address in this city on the proper relations of the Federal and State Governments. The following is

The Hon. Carl Schusz-Deer Ser. The undersigned have been following your public easer as a S nator of the United States with attention and admiration. The reduces and unreniffing libers which in the best interests of the country you have undergone for many interests of the country you have undersone for many years, the cument shakemanship you have shown in the reactment of all public meetings, the rare indee undease and courage you have obsquences in which you have excelled around the best orators of the country, and above all the unchallenged interests of character you have preserved under the most insidious temptations, and deeply exceed in the hearts of a grainful people.

Your treatment of the Le insuma question in particular, has won our hearty approbation. In that question the independence of all the states is involved, and on the even of a Presidential election nothing will in our opinion contribute more toward enlightening the proplem that proper relations, rights and functions of Sixte and Federal Governments, than public exposition of the destructive toucheries of the policy pursued toward the State of Louisians. We are sorry the expiration of the

structive tembereies of the policy parsons toward to istate of Louisiana. We are sorry the expiration of the NLHIG Congress has deprived its or an exportunity to hear from you once more on that subject, and should you consent to address the American people thereon, you will gratify the carnest desire not only of your friends, but of all who take an interest in the wolfare of our country, We would, therefore, respectfully request you to name a day on which it will be agreeable to you to address the cli-zons of New-York City. Wm. M. Evura, Edward C. Godfrey Gunther, Geo. H. k

pactfulir, Edward Luckemey Geo. H. Kunoth, Philip Bessinger, A. Jacoby, Whitelaw Beid, E. Kenaitowitzer, E. Neggerath, L. Weber, F. M. Milaa, H. Wesendorck, Wm. C. Bryant, August Belmont, Oswal-I Ottendorfer, Win Butler Dancan, Edward Salomon, Peter Cooper, L. J. Stlasiny, Alfred Schlesinger,

Mr. Schurz has just replied to the letter as fol-

lows:

Gentlemen: Your kind letter by reining me to deliver as address on public affairs in the City of New York has reached me. Nothing would be more gratifying to me than to obey so flathering a call, but I regret to say that at preach I am unable to do so. On the 20th of the mouth I intend to sail for Europe, and the few intervening days are so entirely tak in up by a variety of engagement as to leave me no time for the necessary proparation. A more favorable ope-tunity may, hower, be found after my return from Europe.

I cannot refrain from thanking you most cordially for the expressions of approval of which you have thought my public conduct describer. Coming from such a source, they are to me an encouragement as well as a reward.

I remain, Gentlemen, vary sincerely yours,

Mr. Schurz, as stated in THE TRIBUNE of yesterday,

has accepted an invitation to a complimentary disner in this city on the night of April 27.

AN EXPERIENCE AT A CHARITY CONCERT.

Sin: Some weeks ago I purchased from a

young min, who professed to be an agent of Miss Oilbert, three tickets for the concert in aid of the Library and Prisoners' Aid Fund, one of which I inclose along with my own card. Yesterday evening I made my way When the tickets were presented, the man in charge re-fused to take them, and referred me to the box office. The clock in the box office was polite but ourt. He said that the tickets like these had all been exchanged for others. When asked if he would exchange them, he re, others. When asked if they did not entitle us to admission, he said they did not, but declined to give any farther explanation. I hought other takets from him, and we enjoyed the concert very much; still I have the unpleasant feeling of having been awindled, and I would pleasant feeling of flaving own symmetry, and like to ask through you some explanation. The are evidently genuine, bearing the signature of differt" on the back, and t way they were refuse not imagina. A CLERICAL LOVER OF GOOD Bracklyn April 21, 1875.

SKILLFUL CANAL ENGINEERS NEEDED. To the Editor of The Tribune

Sin: It is truly refreshing to see a prominent public journal like THE TRIBUNE engaged in exposing the canal frauds; but would it not be well to expend less energy on contractors and more on Government officials, who are paid for keeping the contractors straight! Is would be very difficult for contractors to go wrong, with the laws as they are, if there were good, efficient, house Commissioners, Engineers, and Superintendents. It would be much easier to find such than to frame laws that would induce contractors to modify their proposals in favor of the State, if the authorities would receive

in favor of the State, if the authorities would receive them without.

It does not do to say that good and honest men cannot be found, capable of discriminating between honest and dishonest bills, or skilled engineers capable of making estimates that will render the unbalanced bids, so called, nadess, to the contractors of least. A good engineer who loves his business will always excel, and the necessary familiarity with muthematics inclines him to be a lover of truth. All lovers of the exact sciences are invariably lovers of truth, no matter where you find it, whether is business, politics, or the pulpit. Engineers of this set may not be so much in sight and not so available is politics, but they are worth looking after when trying is prevent canal frands.

Lyons Falls, N. Y., April 20, 1875.

CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT IN THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the Tribune. Six: Noticing the article in your issue of April 10 entitled "A Cabinet Sideboard." I wish to call your attention to eight frigates built by act of Congress four in private yards and four in Government yards. As old ship-builder who made the model and the molds for one built in East Boston, says the same vessel could have been built in the Navy-Yard in Charlestown for \$60,000, whereas the builder got \$160,000 for it. Now there were four built outside, and four times \$100,000 is \$400,000. four built outside, and four times \$100,000 is \$400,000. This man says a great deal of the timber was taken from the Navy-Yard. Congress cannot find work for the man at the armory here, but whonever a member of Congress wants to have a few hundred thousand deliars appropriated, it seems to be easy to find a way to make a confract at prices that will suit him. My informant is a properties of the seems to be easy to find a way to make a conficted ship-builder who can take a ship from the forest and complete it, making model, molds, and every line and mark.

Norigateld, Mars. April 10, 1875.

Springfield, Mass., April 19, 1875.

THE CAUSE OF DAMS GIVING WAY.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: Your editorial comment in yesterday's issue of THE TRIBUNE upon the "bursting of another dam" in Massachusetts, suggests a reference to an espert's report made last Summer upon the facts attended the failure of the Mill River dam. The conclusions this report are pertinent to the manner in which private and often public work is sometimes performed, and are to the effect that "no ongineer or person calling himself such can be held responsible for either its design or este cution." The orthone showed "that he can seem of the work of non-professional persons." Engineers are not in fault as you intimate, but proprieters at the ones to blame, when they undertake works without experts' services. You are right that "the State" should interfere, and until it does, portodic disasters may considered by the expected. The "reputation of our civil can hardly be involved in matters with which they have had nothing to do.

New York April 21, 1875.